

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

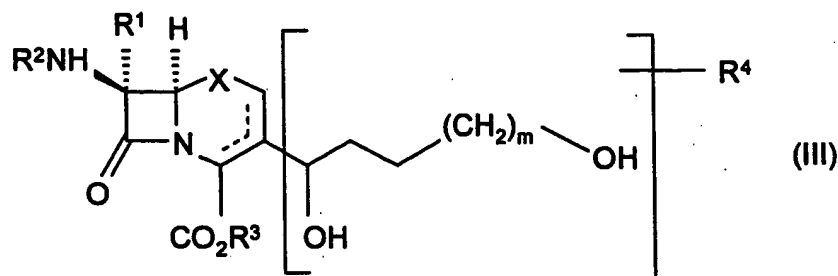
Listing of Claims:

1-15. (canceled).

17. (canceled)

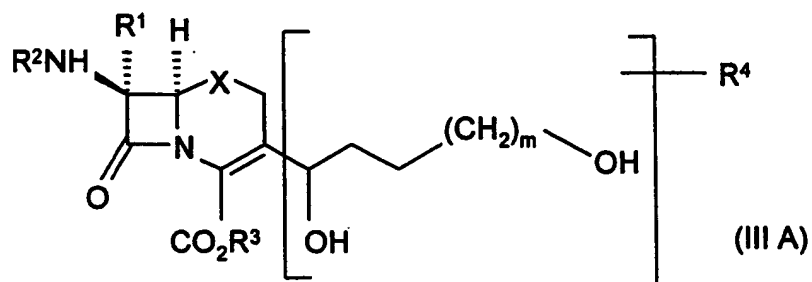
18. (canceled)

21. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** A compound of formula (III),



wherein R¹ is hydrogen, methoxy or formamido; R² is an acyl group; R³ is hydrogen or a carboxy protecting group; R⁴ represents hydrogen or up to four substituents selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, halogen, amino, alkylamino, acylamino, dialkylamino, CO₂R, CONR₂, SO₂NR₂ (where R is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl), aryl and heterocyclyl, which may be the same or different; X is S, SO, SO₂, O, or CH₂; and m is 1 or 2; and the dotted line indicates that the compound may be a 2-cephem or a 3-cephem system, and where the substituent(s) R⁴ when other than hydrogen may replace any of the hydrogen atoms bonded to carbon atoms in the side chain.

22. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The compound according to claim 21, wherein the compound is a compound of formula (III A):



23-24. (canceled)